

Stern et al.

S/N: 10/063,998

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed July 28, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 8-11, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (USP 6,594,673) in view of San Andres et al. (USP 5,956,489). The Examiner next rejected claim 2-4, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of San Andres et al. and further in view of Knight et al. (USP 6,721,748).

In the Final Office Action mailed July 28, 2005, the Examiner concluded that there is a requisite motivation to combine the visualizations for collaborative information (disclosure of Smith et al.) with the transaction replication system and method for supporting replicated transaction-based services (disclosure of San Andres et al.) The Examiner believes that there is a motivation to combine the references because such a combination would "enable the system [to] automatic[ally] copy messages postings so that all the servers of the relevant service group in the bulletin boards system service group contain like message data without user intervention." Office Action, July 28, 2005, pg. 2. The Examiner bases this conclusion on San Andres et al.'s teaching that "the server side of each online service is preferably implemented using one of the following: (1) a single application server 120, (2) a set of 'replicated' application servers (i.e., application servers which are on the same server as application or applications) that provide access to replicated (and locally-stored) copies of service 'content' data (i.e., data provided to end users' of the service), or (3) a set of replicated application servers that provide access to server-specific (non-replicated) service content data." San Andres et al., col. 6, lns. 22-32. In other words, the Examiner has concluded that one skilled in the art would be motivated to arrive at the claimed invention based on the combination of Smith et al. and San Andres et al. because of San Andres et al.'s teaching of a replicated server system.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, and 17 to define that the computerized bulletin boards are of a server and that the one or more other computerized bulletin boards to which a post may be automatically copied based on a topic of relevance are also of the server. In this regard, the same server has the computerized bulletin board to which the post was originally made as well as the other computerized bulletin boards to which the posts may be copied based on a topic of relevance. This is in contrast to the system of San Andres et al. whereby the reference is explicit in that the servers simply contain replicated data. That is, the data of one server is copied to a redundant server that is different from the original server. Thus, the reference fails to teach or suggest the copying of posts to bulletin boards that are contained or stored on the same server.

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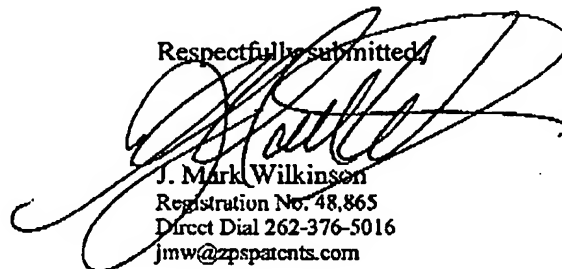
Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1, 10, and 17 each call for subject matter that is patentably distinct from that taught and/or suggested by Smith et al. and San Andres et al.

Claim 22 has also been amended to further define the present invention over the art of record. Specifically, claim 22 has been amended to further define the means to automatically place a copy of the user posts on each content-specific bulletin board to which the post relates and on the content general bulletin board as doing so without copying all other user posts of the set of content-specific bulletin boards. As described above, San Andres et al., which the Examiner relied upon for the replication of data, such as user posts, is explicit in that the servers as a whole are replicated. As such, all the data of one server is replicated on another server. As such, there is no discrimination between the copying of the data. As claim 22, in effect, calls for the discriminatory copying of user posts, Applicant respectfully believes that claim 22 is directed to subject matter patentably distinct from that taught and/or suggested by Smith et al. and San Andres et al.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-22.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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